

## Polio and COVID. Living with their effects in 2022.

Over the last two years, we have had an enormous number of phone calls and emails regarding vaccines (both COVID and Polio). You told us stories of your concern regarding reactions to the COVID vaccine and your fears of the virus itself. Since polio has reared its ugly head in Israel, the UK and New York, you have contacted us regarding the need for polio vaccination and whether you needed “anti-body” testing to determine just what type of polio you had years ago.

Recognizing our lack of professional background to answer your questions regarding vaccines, we were guided by our thoughtful and very caring professional contributors.

- Early on, we published PHI’s [“COVID Vaccine Information”](#) by their Medical Advisory Committee.
- In [January](#), Primary Care Physician (and polio survivor) Marny K. Eulberg, MD talked about Allergies, Colds, COVID, Flu and what differentiates them.
- In [February](#), we published Part 2 of this article from Dr. Eulberg as she focused on COVID and addressed the questions we heard asked so often.
- In [May](#), Richard L. Bruno, HD, PhD wrote about a repeating theme with COVID - “Breakthrough” Infections. He explained that this frequently used term wasn’t new and that there were breakthrough infections with the polio vaccine as well. He reminded us that no vaccine is 100% effective in preventing infection in every person who receives it.
- In [June](#), we featured the last interview of Daniel J. Wilson, PhD. In that interview he explains the differences between the COVID and Poliovirus(es) and yet the similarity in why he believed vaccination for both is so very necessary. Richard L. Bruno, HD, PhD wrote about our immune systems and viruses.
- In [July](#), with the help of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we began our four month series explaining the poliovirus and differentiating between WPV and cVDPV. Sadly, we had to report the discovery of the cVDPV in London and New York during that time.
- Our [advocacy](#) regarding the importance of vaccination was clear throughout. Six polio survivors from our network supported the video series [“Perspectives on COVID-19 Vaccine for Kids”](#) from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Three polio survivors were featured by the PA Immunization Coalition and the PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in their article [“Polio and COVID19 – Then and Now”](#).
- This summer, polio came back to the US. In [August](#), Richard L. Bruno, HD, PhD worked with us to write an article that has circulated all over the US and abroad: Polio – It’s Happened Again in the US.
- In [October](#), Marny Eulberg, MD published an outstanding account of what and why this has happened.

And still, your questions kept coming.

- We had the opportunity to speak with a renowned virologist, [Dr. Paul Offit, MD](#). He is the Director of the Vaccine Education Center and professor of pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Along with many other credentials, he is a member of the FDA Advisory Committee on Vaccines. Dr. Offit has a personal connection with polio and true compassion for survivors of this terrible disease. We asked him YOUR questions on multiple topics.

### Regarding COVID:

- What happens when we get this virus?
- What to do with weakness after the vaccine, paralyzed limbs and whether the second booster is necessary.

### Regarding Polio:

- He tells his story of hospitalization with polio survivors, and how that began his journey into the world of vaccines.
- How has it returned to countries that saw its eradication many, many years ago?
- Whether we should be tested for polio antibodies and the importance of a “titer” test to determine what type of polio we had.

We must thank [Richard L. Bruno, HD, PhD](#), [Marny K. Eulberg, MD](#), [Rotary International](#) (and the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#)), the [Vaccine Education Center at CHOP](#) and in memoriam, [Daniel J. Wilson, PhD](#). They are true advocates for serving our mission of support - to survivors, to the eradication of polio and for being a resource for credible information about vaccines.

